GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4877
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
SUBMISSION OF PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Passport Office at Pune has stopped accepting passport applications through passport agents, except those through agents who are members of IATA and TAAI, with effect from September 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revert to the earlier practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) With effect from 1.8.2000, the Government has authorized those travel agents who are members of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and the Travel Agents Federation of India(TAFI), and are recognized by International Air Travel Association (IATA),to submit passport application forms to the passport offices. In addition, all those travel agents who were recognized by this Ministry prior to July, 1992, when the system of recognition was dispensed with, are eligible to submit passport application forms to the passport offices.

(b) Numerous complaints were received by our passport offices where the travel agents were instrumental in submitting forged documents enabling unauthorized persons to obtain passports which could seriously compromise national security.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.